

Comments To the Board of County Commissioners by Sue Forde:

Please stand STRONGLY AGAINST the proposed Rule by the Washington State Department of Ecology. The minimum instream flow rules as proposed would harm property owners in the Dungeness Valley and would be, for the majority of the time, unattainable.

The issue of wells, in particular, is a battle we have fought for many years. Exempt wells should NOT be metered, and the law should not be changed based on some questionable results of “computer modeling,” and a lack of empirical scientific evidence.

Further, the department of ecology is an unelected, unaccountable bureaucracy that should not be determining what we can and cannot do as citizens. That falls under the purview of our ELECTED representatives. And since you are those representatives, I urge you, as a citizen of Clallam County and Washington State, to follow carefully the Washington State Constitution, which states, in Article I, Section I: “All political power is inherent in the people, and governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and **are established to protect and maintain individual rights.**”

The question is: Which one of my individual rights are being protected by these “rules”? Rights are being removed, not protected. I object to the process that has been followed by the Department of Ecology, which has been a travesty as far as considering “local” input – with their “dog and pony shows” – “show and tell”, bore us to death with lengthy discussion and slideshow presentations, and instead of allowing questions to be brought in front of the whole group, to isolate individuals with responses like “we’ll get back to you later”, or with little groups isolated from one another to utilize the Delphi technique aka “consensus process” to achieve their pre-determined outcomes.

If in fact, there is a proven shortage of water during certain times of the year for the fish, then I recommend dredging the river to open up channels with sufficient water (as has been done historically with great success and no harmful impact on salmon runs); and build dams upriver to control the flow.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sue W. Forde